

IN THE CLAIMS:

The pending claims, some of which have been amended (Claims 7 and 10) and one of which has been canceled (Claim 9, without prejudice), are as follows:

1. Canceled
2. Canceled
3. Canceled.
4. Canceled.
5. Canceled.
6. Canceled.
7. (Once Amended) A device for loading and unloading disabled vehicles, the device having a vehicle chassis supporting a loading ramp capable of tilting on the vehicle chassis, comprising:

a loading platform supported by and slidable along the loading ramp, the loading platform being movable between a fully loaded position in which the loading platform substantially nests over the loading ramp, and a fully extended position in which the loading platform has been moved to a location which is substantially rearward of the loading ramp;

wherein the loading platform employs a cylinder which enables movement of the loading platform over a travel distance substantially twice as large as a travel distance of a cylinder rod moving within the cylinder; and

wherein the cylinder is associated with at least first and second cable elements,
and further comprising one or more pulleys arranged on a shaft driven by the cylinder rod and
adapted to move the at least first and second cable elements; [and]

whereby extension of the cylinder rod causes the loading platform to move in a first direction along a longitudinal axis of the vehicle chassis, and retraction of the cylinder rod causes the loading platform to move in a second direction opposite to the first direction, wherein the second direction is also along the longitudinal axis of the vehicle chassis.

8. (As Previously Presented) The device of Claim 7, wherein the first and second cable elements comprise one or more of the following: chains or cables.

9. Canceled.

10. (Once Amended) The device of Claim 7 [9], wherein the shaft is arranged transversally to an end of the cylinder rod and the shaft is pivotally mounted on a movable bearing block slidably connected to the loading platform.

11. (As Newly Presented) The device of Claim 7, wherein the vehicle chassis supports the cylinder.

12. (As Newly Presented) The device of Claim 7, wherein the loading ramp is capable of tilting with respect to the vehicle chassis.

13. (As Previously Presented) The device of Claim 12, wherein the loading platform is slidably mounted on the loading ramp using at least one sliding block capable of sliding along the loading ramp and to which the loading platform is connected.

14. (As Previously Presented) The device of Claim 13, wherein the at least one sliding block is connected to the loading platform using a pivot with a transversal axis.

15. (As Previously Presented) The device of Claim 14, wherein two sliding blocks are employed, each of which is slidably mounted on a side of the loading ramp.